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2004 QUICK FACTS

- Six million DVD/VHS inserts in Disney's Brother Bear
- 1,672 Take Pride Gardens
- 120 National Public Lands Day Events
- More than 900,000 volunteer hours pledged for efforts in Southern California & Florida

UP-COMING EVENTS

- February 1-4, 2005
Take Pride Meeting
- March 1- May 31, 2005
Great American Cleanup
- April 2, 2005
Park Day — Civil War Preservation Trust
- April 15-17, 2005
National Youth Service Day
- April 17-23, 2005
National Volunteer Week
- April 22, 2005
Earth Day
- May 14-22, 2005
National River Cleanup Week
- May 14-15, 2005
Good Sam International Cleanup Day

A Note from our Executive Director

We are anxious to continue the momentum at Take Pride in America[®] this year. We have several exciting events and programs that need your enthusiasm and support as we continue making Take Pride in America synonymous with volunteering on public lands. Over the past year we garnered several new partners and anticipate the addition of more partners who will join us in the coming months.

As the year begins, we look forward to several new additions to the program that will make it even better. For example, we have written and designed new printed materials that will better inform all Americans about Take Pride.

We are also pleased to have our partners from the Take Pride in Utah program host a meeting in Salt Lake City February 1-4. We anticipate a successful gathering of local, state, Federal and Charter Partners committed to spreading the word about Take Pride in their programs.

I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Marti Allbright

A Year of Success for Take Pride

During our second year of operation, numerous accomplishments kept Take Pride in America busy. Our partners joined in and made tremendous contributions.

» In 2004, Governors from all 50 states and Guam joined the program's Council of Governors.

» More than 400,000 hours of volunteer service were pledged in Florida, and over 80 Take Pride in America events took place to help with hurricane restoration.

» More than 450,000 partner sponsored Volunteer Guides were given to volunteers as a "thank you" for their service.

» Clint Eastwood signed on to reprise his role as Take Pride spokesman.

» A one million-dollar contribution by Charter Partner America the Beautiful Fund of flower, vegetable and herb



There were more than 1,600 Take Pride in America Gardens planted in 2004, sponsored by America the Beautiful Fund.

seed packets helped plant 1,672 Take Pride in America Gardens. These gardens have not only created a beautiful environment, but provide vegetables and fruit for families in need.

» The National Award Ceremony in September honored 26 recipients with the National Take Pride in America Award for their outstanding contributions to public lands.

» The Take Pride in America City Program was launched in early 2004, which has rapidly caught the interest of 37 communities across the country. It's easy to participate, talk to your mayor today!

Exciting months ahead for Take Pride events

We are already hard at work planning some great opportunities for 2005. It is easy to turn your public lands volunteer project into a Take Pride event by registering it on our Web site and displaying our logo. Information about all events is available on our Web site. We especially invite you to co-logo your national day events like National Trails Day or National Public Lands Day.

The 20th anniversary of the Great American Cleanup, sponsored by Take Pride Charter Partner, Keep America Beautiful is March through May. There will be thousands of events in communities around the country. For more information about participating in the Great American Cleanup, visit www.kab.org.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is hosting its 9th annual Park Day April 2 with sites participating in 23 states and the District of Columbia. Volunteers will work to maintain historic battlefields which played a key role in the establishment and unification of the United States. To find a site near you, visit www.civilwar.org.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT Volunteers connect with history on Park Day

Over 140 years ago, Americans fought a terrible conflict that tore the nation apart.

On battlefields across the United States, Americans struggled over the future of our country. This spring, thousands of volunteers will return to America's Civil War battlefields-armed with paint brushes, trash bags, and weed whackers.

Saturday April 2, 2005, history buffs and preservationists across the country will help clean up and improve over 80 of America's priceless battlefields, cemeteries, and monuments in 23 states and the District of Columbia during the ninth annual Park Day. Take Pride in America is excited for the opportunity to participate this year.

Sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and The History Channel, Park Day is an opportunity for Americans to lend a hand in keeping our shared Civil War heritage sites pristine and accessible.

Volunteers will assist park staff with activities ranging from trash pickup to erecting fences, from landscaping to establishing new trails. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and Volunteer Guide for their efforts, as well as being treated to a presentation about the historical significance of the site they are working to preserve and improve.

Park Day is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested

National Youth Service Day is from April 15-17. This event encourages youth around the country to do something good for their community and volunteer. National Youth Service Day is a great opportunity for youth to participate in Take Pride events on public lands. For more information, please visit www.ysa.org.

April is also an opportunity to celebrate volunteers and all of their hard work. National Volunteer Week is April 16-22 and encourages recognition of volunteers everywhere.

April 22 is the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. This year's theme is "Protecting Our Children's Health and Our Future." Events are planned around the country, with organizations and individuals volunteering to enhance their world. To learn more about Earth Day, log onto www.earthday.gov.

The 10th Annual Good Sam Club International Clean Up Day is May 14-15. Watch for further information as the event draws closer.



Armed with pitchforks, rakes, and shovels, a troop of volunteers at Ball's Bluff battlefield near Leesburg, Va. participate in Park Day 2004

in connecting with America's past. We encourage people of all ages to join the effort, from scout troops to community groups. Last year, more than 3,500 volunteers turned out for Park Day 2004, donating over 8,500 volunteer hours to sites across the country.

This year, Park Day is also a Take Pride in America event, and we hope that, with this new partnership, Park Day 2005 will be an even bigger success!

For a complete list of participating Park Day sites, please visit <http://www.civilwar.org/parkday2005.htm>. You can also see a list of event locations and additional details by logging onto our Web site at www.TakePride.gov.

Utah Meeting encourages program participation



Salt Lake City, Utah is playing host to this year's Take Pride in America Meeting. This photo is courtesy of World Web Travel Guide and shows the Salt Lake Valley from above the State Capitol Building.

The snow-covered Wasatch Mountains and wide Salt Lake Valley are the backdrop for the inaugural Take Pride in America Meeting.

State coordinators, corporations and organizations, Federal bureau representatives and individuals are gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah in

hopes of building stronger relationships and a stronger Take Pride in America program.

With more than 50 participants expected from around the country, meeting coordinators anticipate a well-rounded exchange of ideas.

The goal for the meeting is to foster enthusiasm and confidence in Federal, state and local partners, as well as other partner organizations.

"Participating in Take Pride isn't hard and can be done on limited funds," said Dawn Schuck, assistant director for program management for Take Pride in America. "We want everyone to know that they can do it, and give them ideas on how to make it happen."

Official meetings begin Wednesday, with an all-day round of meetings covering various topics.

"We are anxious for everyone to see how easy it is to participate," said Marti Albright, executive director for Take Pride in America.

Field trips to see Take Pride in Utah project sites will show how an effective

program on a limited budget can be run. Albright said Utah was an ideal location for the meeting because it won a 2004 National Award for state program.

The meeting will conclude with a volunteer event.

Participants will include Take Pride in Utah partners, volunteers and meeting attendees.

"We hope people come away from the meeting with the confidence and knowledge necessary to build a successful program," Albright said.

"I am looking forward to engaging our partners in new and creative ways so that the Take Pride message is implemented in communities across the Nation," said Michelle Cangelosi, deputy director of Take Pride in America.

Volunteerism among Americans increasing

American volunteerism continues to rise, and many are attributing it to President Bush's call to service following the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks.

The new study released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, reports that the number of volunteers rose from September 2003 to September 2004.

According to the study, about 64.5 million people participated in volunteer work at least once during the study period, up from 63.8 million for the similar period in 2003, and up from 58.8 million for the period in 2002.

"Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we've seen a

tremendous increase in volunteer service among Americans," said Desiree T. Sayle, director of USA Freedom Corps.

"Today's numbers show that our Nation's commitment to volunteer service is sustained three years later. The important idea of actively engaging in volunteer service is taking root across the country."

Sayle said President Bush's purpose in creating USA Freedom Corps was to encourage more Americans to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of others. When American's volunteer, the Nation is strengthened one person, at a time.

The study reports that one fourth of

men and about one third of women participated in volunteer work in the year ending September 2004, about the same proportions as in the previous year. Women volunteered at a higher rate than men.

The age group most likely to volunteer are ages 35 to 44, followed closely by 45 to 54 year olds. Parents with children under age 18 are more likely to volunteer than parents without children that age, 36.9 percent to 25.4 percent.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (33.9 percent) than never married persons (23.2 percent) and persons of other marital statuses (22.9 percent).

The data was collected as part of a monthly survey of 60,000 households.

Golden Knights help Take Pride reach new heights

A Take Pride in America flag recently soared with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights.

Members of the team carried the flag during practice sessions over Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

The Take Pride in America flag will also have the opportunity to fly over western skies in March when the Golden Knights begin their training exercises in Yuma, Ariz.

Being the goodwill ambassadors for the U.S. Army is a big job. Soldiers



Sergeant Jared Hall, a member of the Golden Knight's Black Team, carried the Take Pride in America flag during parachuting practice sessions.

on the Golden Knights do their best work at 12,500 feet above the earth's surface, racing to the ground at speeds in excess of 120 mph and landing with smiles.

For more than 43 years the U.S. Army Parachute Team has been entertaining both young and old with precision parachute demonstrations.

For more photos of this exciting and historic event, log onto our Web site at www.takepride.gov and click on Volunteer Spotlight.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Washington volunteers build lasting friendships

A hold over from the original Take Pride in America program, North Central Washington Take Pride in America has been working hard to improve its community since 1989. The program has sponsored a variety of projects including the creation of the Bridge of Friendship Japanese Garden.

The Bridge of Friendship was built to commemorate

Wenatchee and East Wenatchee's sister city of Misawa, Japan. The garden, took over a year to build and utilized 450 community volunteers.

If you would like your event highlighted in our Volunteer Spotlight section, please contact our office with photos and a description of your event. We look forward to recognizing your efforts.

Take Pride in America staff changes this month

For Take Pride in America, recognizing and rewarding significant contributions to the program is something we take pleasure in.

That is why we are excited to announce Director for Government and Community Relations, Michelle Cangelosi is now deputy director of Take Pride.

Her hard work and dedication to the program is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations Michelle!



Michelle Cangelosi participates in Great Outdoors Week, 2004 by helping clear trees and brush on Theodore Roosevelt Island.

We are also sorry to see our Communications Assistant, Kirsten Tate, move on to Southern California. She has been instrumental in redesigning our printed materials and newsletter. Our loss is California's gain! Best wishes Kirsten!

For Your Information.....

We would like to continue Partner Spotlight and Volunteer Spotlight sections of our newsletter. We know you are doing amazing things out there, and we want to showcase your efforts! Please send us your photos, event evaluation forms and a write-up of your event.

Email your materials to takepride@ios.doi.gov. We may add them to our Web site or newsletter. We look forward to highlighting you!

Thank you...

We want to thank our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride," please continue sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,
Take Pride Staff